News Release

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DeMaio Applauds SDCERS Board for Rejecting Pension Underfunding Plan

Says City Must Reform Pension to Lower Its Cost to Taxpayers

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SAN DIEGO – San Diego City Councilmember Carl DeMaio applauded the San Diego Employees Retirement System (SDCERS) Board today for rejecting a plan to change its accounting rules and underfund the city's pension obligation.

"I commend the SDCERS Board for rejecting this proposal and sending a clear message to the public that it will not repeat past mistakes. Any action to delay fully funding the city's pension obligation will only exacerbate the city's financial problems," said DeMaio. "If the Mayor and City Council want to reduce the cost of the city's pension, they should focus on reforming the unsustainable level of benefits awarded to city employees."

DeMaio first voiced his strong opposition to manipulating the pension payment in a memo to city officials in May and again before the SDCERS Board in July. He was joined by Councilmember Donna Frye and the San Diego County Taxpayers Association in sounding the alarm to taxpayers.

DeMaio had likened the plan to the notorious past pension underfunding schemes, Managers Proposal I and Managers Proposal II, that have created a nearly \$2 billion liability for San Diego taxpayers. He added, "If this underfunding plan were approved today, San Diegans would be referring to this plan as Managers Proposal III."

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